

# ***COMMENTS ON*** **OVERVIEW OF INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR** **REVISING THE 1997 OMB RACE AND** **ETHNICITY STATISTICAL STANDARDS**

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# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- SPD 15 was established in 1977; last updated in 1997.
- The new revision addresses: Some other race, MENA, disaggregated data, and retiring inconsistent and outdated terminology
- Proposals presented are preliminary.
- FRN public comment period ran from 1/27 to 4/27.
- The Interagency Working Group assessed research and evidence from several sources: previous 2014-2018 Working Group research, other Bureau research, Bureau experience and more.

# QUESTIONS

- Bridging and harmonization should be a priority. Looking forward, how can bridging be achieved if these changes are implemented? What about farther into the future (such as in 2030 or 2050).
- Will the combined design make it hard to historically harmonize data? For example, the addition of the MENA category makes it tricky to bridge to earlier data. Will there be ways of imputing MENA status from other information? (e.g., region, income, household size?)
- Since the category “some other race” has been a source of confusion, what are the pros and cons of including it in the combined question?

# QUESTIONS

- How is the MENA category defined? How is the list of countries shown decided? Where is Turkey? Iraq? Afghanistan?
- Has the proposed change of “American Indian or Alaska native” to “All individuals who identify with any of the original peoples of North, Central and South America” been tested with indigenous people of Mexico?
- Does the Bureau have a sense of how well people understand the stakes in choosing different categories?
- When would these changes be implemented? When would guidance be provided? For example, will guidance on bridging be developed concurrently with the implementation of the combined race and ethnicity question?

# THANK YOU!

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